



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
March 7, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann, and Gina Joyce

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; City Attorney: John Thames; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: Council: Deirdre Kvale (with prior notice)

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Joyce, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Closed Session Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05, Subd. (b): Discuss Enforcement Action Related to the Fire Services Contract

A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Joyce, to move the meeting into a Closed Session pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 3 (b): to discuss enforcement action related to the Fire Services Contract. Ayes: all.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Feldmann, to exit the Closed Session. Ayes: all.

Upon return to open session, Long Lake Fire Department Deputy Chief Cody Farley was invited to share a few comments he had intended to present during the Open Correspondence period.

Cody Farley, Deputy Chief, reflected that he and some of the firefighters have been frustrated with things that are going on right now. A group of them decided that they would like to be proactive and be part of helping resolve the Fire Department situation rather than being divisive. In that spirit, they came up with their own draft proposal for the two cities to consider that they feel makes a lot of sense and which would entail a mutually shared fire service. He reviewed some of the negotiating points that each City feels strongly about related to ownership and assets, and discussed the initial points of their proposal intended to address these areas. He added that the firefighters are becoming less on the side of either City and are now more on the side of the Long Lake Fire Department. He reminded the Council that their mission is to make sure the Department and the membership stay whole.

Mayor Miner indicated that the Council appreciates the firefighters' mediation effort.

Council member Dyvik stated that he looks forward to seeing the final draft proposal that the firefighters put together once they incorporate initial feedback from both cities.

Council member Joyce asked why the proposal was for a new contract to be effective by 2024 when there is currently a contract that doesn't expire until 2025.

Mr. Farley responded that he saw no value in maintaining a contract to its end date if both cities agree on a new contract.

Council member Joyce pointed out that there are more than two cities involved.

Mr. Farley conveyed his belief that if the City approached the other contract cities and explained that the entity would be staying the same, but management of it would move from Long Lake to Orono, they could give them the other cities the option to choose whether they want to continue with the contract.

Council member Joyce voiced frustration with having a legal contract in place that nobody plans to follow.

Council member Dyvik noted that it was not unheard of to renegotiate a new contract before an old one expires.

Update on Fire Chief Hiring Process

City Administrator Weske advised that this item would be on the Council's Consent Agenda during the regular meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator